



Extra



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THE SPELMAN SPOTLIGHT



VOL. XXI, NO. 6

SPELMAN COLLEGE

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

MARCH, 1966

Rev. Wm. Glenesk Brings World "Way-In" For Spelman

A. U. Center Opens Religious Emphasis Week

The week of March 7-11 has been set aside for the observance of Religious Emphasis Week for 1966 in the Atlanta University Center. This year's observance will be the thirteenth program on a center wide basis.

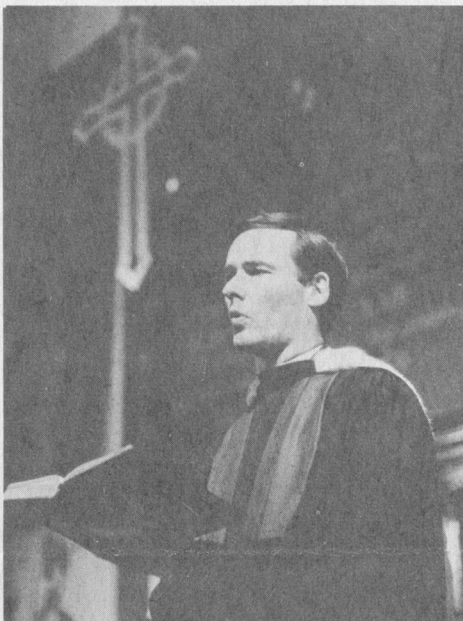
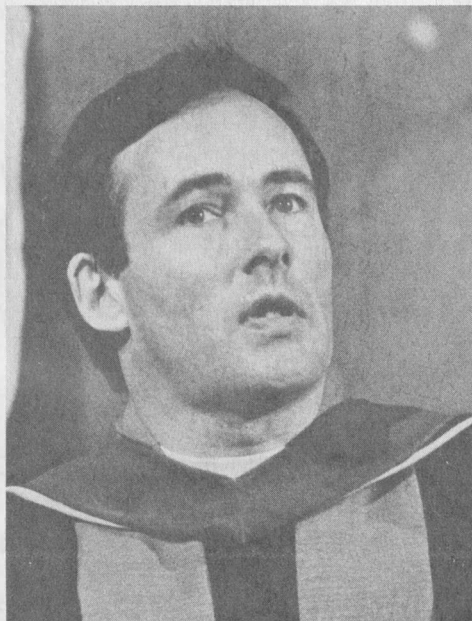
During 1953-54 school year, the six institutions in the Atlanta University Center joined together in their observance of Religious Emphasis Week. The activities for the week were planned by joint student-faculty committees. These committees were headed by one of the presidents of the colleges in the center, who served a term of two years.

This year's chairman is Dr. Vivian Henderson, the newly elected president of Clark College. The guest speaker for the Atlanta University Center will be Dr. Robert Spike, Professor of Ministry, the Divinity University of Chicago. Dr. Spike will center his discussions around this year's theme, "A Relevant Theology in Modern Society."

Ernestine Clowers

RELIGIOUS EMPHASIS WEEK COMMITTEES

On Monday, February 21, the Spelman College Religious Emphasis Committee held its first meeting for this year. They began to make plans for this year's observance to be held during the week of March 6. Under the directorship of Rev. N. M. Bates, officers were chosen and committee assignments made. This year's Chairman is Michael Purify who last year served as Co-chairman. Co-chairman for this year is Deborah Houston. Cynthia Smith was chosen to serve as Secretary, assisted by Sandra Reese.



"The arts of man are the ways in which he can express the image of God in himself"

How to Celebrate God With the Arts of Man

"I don't think that Christianity should become a habit. And it can become a habit forming drug—safe in the arms of Jesus and that kind jazz!"

"I think that Christianity is a search for God in the midst of life. Man, Jesus says, must ask and seek and knock if he wants to know, to find and to enter the kingdom of God."

"The church should be a place where people can experiment and create and approach the mystery of God in many ways."

These are the words of the Reverend William Glenesk, of Spencer Memorial Church on Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, who will be our Religious Emphasis Week Speaker. On March 8-10 Mr. Glenesk will present three seminars on theatre, art, and music. In these seminars he will discuss with various faculty members, using several students to demonstrate, some of the ways in which we may approach the mystery of God through theatre, art, and music. Despair, tragedy, doubt, protest, and faith will be shown by Mr. Glenesk to be embodied in each of the subject areas which he will discuss. In the field of drama he will discuss outstanding plays presented in our times which have religious significance and also which point several aspects of our contemporary world. In the area of art he will relate classical and contemporary paintings in terms of their religious themes.

Mr. Glenesk's background includes the study of acting technique on a professional level with Eva LeGallienne, Uta Hugen, Herbert Bergnof and Irene Dailey. In addition he has done serious work in the fields of vocal music and dance.

M. Purify

Members of the Worship Committee are Barbara Pyatt, (Chairman), Linda Hammet, Barbara Anderson, Pamela Jones, Maxine Hayes, Cheryl Summers, Jennelle Sturgeon, and Natalja Harris.

Serving on the Seminar Committee are Alice Hines, Janice Friend, Carolyn Odom, Sylvia Cordy, Jane Sampson, Michon Kyle, Cheryl McCoy, Cheryl Bichette, Debra Hous-

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Religious Emphasis Week at Spelman will truly take on new dimensions this year. The student who is usually apathetic about such activities as this will be aroused to new levels of excitement. For the Reverend Mr. William Glenesk, who is Spelman's keynote speaker this year, has the reputation of being able to alleviate any possible apathy toward Christianity. Whether it's by his new ideas or by his unusual demonstration of these ideas that he is able to arouse this interest is left to the individual to judge; but one thing upon which all will agree is that his new and interesting approach to Christianity is also a refreshing one.

The theme which Rev. Glenesk has chosen to speak on for the week is "The Way-In World." Supporting this theme, he will demonstrate how religion relates to those things of our present-day world which are frequently considered to be "way-out," particularly in the area of the theatre, music, poetry, dance, and art. Hence, in his chapel lectures Rev. Glenesk will treat the contemporary poets, beat and folk, including Bob Dylan, the Beatles, Ferlinghetti, Pete Seeger, Woodie Guthrie, Langston Hughes, and Leroi Jones. Then he will conduct three evening seminars to demonstrate the relevance of religion to each of the four arts, dance, drama, painting, and music.

The minister's preparations and qualifications for approaching Christianity from these four areas are quite impressive. His theatrical training includes the study with Eva Le Gallienne, Uta Hagen, Herbert Berghot and Irene Dailey. Making an analogy of man's predicament to an actor "... like an actor when he forgets his lines or doesn't really know what the playwright means, but like the actor, you are still 'aware' that there is a play ... and a playwright."

"In the course of studying acting, I discovered that I did not want to go into the theatre. But, no preacher is worth his salt if he doesn't study acting. There is no excuse for Christianity being dull. It has so many levels and dimensions."

Having studied dance, Rev. Glenesk joined Alvin Ailey in dancing "the Hermit Songs" in a vespers service in 1964. His talents extend to nearly all the arts—he has taken voice lessons and also plays the piano. He even paints.

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Controversial Professor to Debate at Spelman

During Religious Emphasis Week, religion will be discussed in its conservative and controversial aspects. At present, all religions are going through a period of questioning and reform. Christians are now involved in the "God is dead" debate. Several months ago this debate hit Atlanta in full force. Professor T. J. Altizer, a theology professor at Emory University is the major proponent of this Neo-Christianity in Atlanta. Since he made his original pronouncement of his theories he has appeared at conferences, debates throughout the country. A book will soon be published which explains his theories.

Dr. Altizer is opposed to many of the traditional Christian beliefs and attitudes which we embrace. He has proposed that we revise our concepts about God and Jesus and the church itself. Many theologians have expressed their approval of Dr. Altizer's views. Other eminent religious leaders have condemned him. He has been accused of trying to replace the Christian religion with atheism.

On Tuesday, March 8, at 8:15 p.m., Professor Altizer will again discuss his challenging theories. At this time the students and faculty of the Atlanta University Center can assess the worth of some Neo-Christian thinking. Professor Altizer will debate with Dr. Charles H. Long of the University of Chicago. Dr. Long is guest speaker at Morehouse College for the week. This discussion should be a challenging one. Several religious views will be expressed and the audience will have an opportunity to hear and question two of America's most eminent theologians.

A. Porter

COMMITTEES . . .

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ton, Cynthia Smith, Augustine McDaniel, Katerina Jackson, Ann Dopson, Andrea Peterson, Linda Housch, Joan Gailard, Henrietta Turnquest, Ernestine Dearing, and Elizabeth Leigh.

The members of the Library Committee are Mildred Ingram and Tammara Williams.

The Schedule Committee is composed of Frieda Williamson, (Chairman), Patricia Roberts, Juddith Fennell, Ernestine Clowers, and Cassandra Taylor.

Ruth Baety, (Chairman), Ruth Williams, Bettianne Childers, Yvonne Batton, Carlotta Rhetta, Etta Moore, Ann Golar, Murrly Hunt, Regina Hughes, and Angela Robinson make up the Hospitality Committee.

Glenda Anderson, (Chairman), Jean Shipp, Carolyn Anderson, and Betty Gamble are the members of the House Conference Committee.



Dr. T. J. Altizer,
Emory University

Dr. Robert Spike Will Speak

During the week of March 6th, the Atlanta University Center will observe Religious Emphasis Week, and there will be several distinguished speakers in the Center during this time to discuss the many aspects of religion. One of these speakers, The Reverend Doctor Robert W. Spike, will begin the week by speaking in Sister's Chapel, Spelman College on March 6th, at 3:00 p.m. He will speak again in Sister's Chapel on Monday evening, March 7th at 7:00 p.m.

A native of Buffalo, New York, Dr. Spike is a graduate of Colgate Rochester Divinity School and of Denison University in Granville, Ohio, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Omicron Delta Kappa. He received a doctorate in education from Columbia University in conjunction with Union Theological Seminary in 1954, and an L.H.D. degree from Moravian College in 1964.

At the present Dr. Spike is the executive director of the Commission on Religion and Race, National Council of Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. The National Council's emergency Commission on Religion and Race was created in June, 1963, to enlist the aid of the nation's Protestant and Orthodox Churches in the struggle for racial justice. One of the first to relate mid-twentieth century culture and society, Dr. Spike has been active in the National Council of Churches for a number of years, having served as chairman of the Committee on Christian Ministry in the National Parks, and as a member

C'mon Spelmanite, Find Out What's Happening

Last year, after more than a hundred Spelman students worked tirelessly and unselfishly in preparing and presenting one of the most interesting Religious Emphasis Week programs in recent years; after an entire morning of classes was cancelled on our campus for the observance of a college-wide seminar; after a handsome Morehouse College graduate preached in three chapel services with the tintinnabulation of a basso-profundo, and visited several dormitories debating and debunking many student ideas about formalized religion, and walked and talked on campus with students for five full days; after Sisters Chapel was aglow for four Atlanta University Center-wide afternoon and evening worship services; after all this, and more, a faculty member of one of the colleges "across the street" reported that a Spelman student in one of his classes was unaware that Religious Emphasis Week was taking place.

Unbelievable! Unthinkable! And, if true, mose undesirable!

If there is any college-sponsored program during the school year that is designed to involve all the students in both leadership and participation, surely it is Religious Emphasis Week. And this year is no exception. In fact, students have been chosen by one another to work out an effective and interesting week, like wild-fire, those chosen have assumed their roles in a most heartening and inspiring manner. They have pledged their support and have gotten behind their leaders and have had many enriching experiences during these few days prior to Religious Emphasis Week. This special edition of the *Spelman Spotlight* is one bit of evidence of that spirit.

It has never failed. Somehow, the Spelman student, when given the responsibility of doing a job, does it with flying colors. Our hats must be tipped to these individuals whose great satisfaction will come in the realization that they did a good job and that the activities were participated

in and appreciated by their fellow-students.

Religious Emphasis Week this year should offer another incentive for greater student participation, however. For the theme that has been devised by the Atlanta University Center Committee should evoke a response from students and faculty members perhaps never before realized. "A Relevant Theology for Modern Society" does not necessarily cause a surge of interest on the layman's part, especially when first read. But on second thought, when looking at the contemporary scene, the theme takes on some attractive possibilities. The present generation of college students has been exposed to as much radical religious thinking as any other group during the Twentieth Century. When one reads Robinson's "Honest To God", or Harvey Cox's "The Secular City", one senses that traditional religious thinking is being seriously challenged. And then, when one considers Altizer's views on the death of God, viewed by some as the "last straw" in a steady-growing list of contemporary "heresies", one cannot but help realize that the old foundations are being shaken as never before. Surely Religious Emphasis Week will provide an opportunity for students to examine their personal beliefs in an age in which old concepts are being evaluated in all seriousness.

Then, the possibilities which the Reverend William Glenesk promises to open to our campus by concentrating on "The Way-In World" through several mediums should captivate the imagination and anticipation of even the most disinterested academician.

But let us confess: all the sound and fury generated by a dedicated student committee, or a theme that is relevant to our contemporary scene, or a "Beatnik" age preacher, can easily subside into much ado about nothing unless the individual Spelman student "involves" herself in what's really happening.

Norman Rates

AGNES SCOTT RECITAL

Each year as a part of the A. U. Center observance of Religious Emphasis Week a presentation in some field of the fine arts is planned. This year's presentation will be a Dance Recital by members of an Agnes Scott College dance group. It will be held on Sunday evening, March 6, at 7 o'clock in Dean Sage Hall Auditorium. It will be followed by a reception in the faculty lounge of Dean Sage Hall.

Patricia Roberts

Rev. Glenesk Brings World . . .

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Rev. Glenesk is the pastor of Spencer Memorial Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn, New York—a church whose membership is now more than ten times the number it was when he took it over in 1955. "The Church should be a place where people can experiment and create and approach the mystery of God in many ways." He says further, "I believe that the church should embrace all of life; that Christianity should embrace the world. It should try not to punch the world into a pattern as if the figure of Christ were a cookie cutter."

Expounding on the philosophy behind his approach to Christianity, Rev. Glenesk says, "Nobody can define God for you, or define the ways in which you can worship God. And this is why I use the dance, the cymbals, paintings, Dixieland jazz and all the instruments of the arts of man. The arts of man are the ways in which he can express the image of God in himself."

Reverend Glenesk is a follower of Paul Tillich under whom he studied at Union Theological Seminary. The theologian says of his former pupil that he sees nothing wrong in his use of the arts in stimulating the interest of his congregation. "If it is done tactfully, it can be very impressive," he says, "It is important today that every way be tried to make the Christian methods relevant to life."

Rev. Glenesk's most attractive tactic is a disregard for convention and orthodoxy; yet his greatest asset, as agreed upon by all, is a deep sincerity. His life does not follow the generally accepted pattern of that of a minister, but resembles one that is a mixture of minister, actor, and artist. When he is out of his ministerial habit his dress is somewhat collegiate.

Having changed his ambitions from teaching to the ministry, Rev. Glenesk took his Bachelor of Divinity degree from the University of Toronto in 1952. He then came to this country to continue his studies at Columbia University as a graduate student. On Sundays he served as guest preacher in the city churches until he found Spencer Memorial. "It was the shabbiest building with the fewest people and it had the least money," he recalls. "It was a perfect situation in which to discover if the Holy Spirit was around town."

More recently Rev. Glenesk has been engaged in delivering a series of lectures at Princeton University on "The Communication of Christianity in the Arts."

F. Williamson